

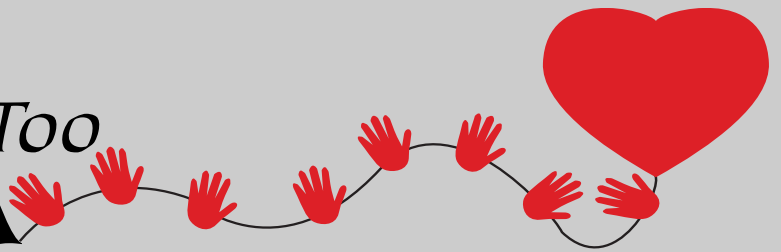


Maricopa County CASA^{Too}

Court Appointed Special Advocate Program Newsletter

www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov

February 2003



Holiday party recap, a good book and judicial changes

More than 50 CASAs, guests and staff got together in December for a Holiday Gathering that included food, friends and gifts. The evening was held at Program Manager Bonnie Marcus' home. Big "Thank You's" go to the Kappa Alpha Theta fraternity who provided more than 60 stockings stuffed with goodies for CASAs to give to their CASA children. Also, to Polymicro Technologies, a company in northwest Phoenix who, for the second year, has provided gifts to CASA children. These two organizations helped our CASAs make Christmas a little more special for our kids.

Book Review

There was a list of books to read in the State newsletter. Books are also counted toward training, for those of you who want to get your training hours done early.

The Things I Want Most, by Richard F. Miniter. Written by the father, this book describes a family's struggles as foster parents of a severely emotionally disturbed eleven-year-old boy.

No handbook exists for dealing with the boy's incessant chatter, physical tics, or frequent destructive outbursts, and the experts' advice often does not jibe with the parents' intuition.

The strict regulations of the child protective system frequently obstruct progress, and the foster parents find themselves in the awkward situation of circumventing rules they have promised to follow.

They face the agony of admitting that they may fail with this child, in which case he would be sent to a highly restricted group home until he is 18. This true story is moving and ultimately uplifting. Highly recommended to anyone dealing with a difficult child, the Miniter's experience underlines the value of persistence.

— Ellen Smith



CASA advocates, staff and guests gathered in December to celebrate the Holidays. The Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity donated these stuffed stockings to the CASA children.

FYIs

- Our office attempts to keep current information on all volunteers. Often, the State CASA office wants to email their newsletter and notices. Please forward any changes in your email, phone numbers, or address information to our office. Thank you for your help.

- Administrative volunteers that are not currently on a case, please be aware that there are a variety of ways to support the program and efforts. Please call our office at 602-506-4083.

Judicial Rotations

Judge Alan Kamin is retiring in February and Judge Alfred Fenzel will be moving to Juvenile Court.

Commissioner David Arrow will be moving to become involved with the Limited Jurisdiction Courts, and will be replaced by Commissioner Brian Rees, who previously was a Court Specialist in Juvenile Court.

Welcome Judge Fenzel and Commissioner Rees!

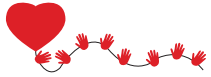
Coyotes Tickets

The State CASA office has informed us that the Phoenix Coyotes are making suites available for CASA use during the months of February, March and April. Please contact the Maricopa CASA office for further information. What a great way to spend some time with your CASA children, thanks to the Phoenix Coyotes!

Volunteer Forum

Our first annual volunteer forum was held Thursday evening, January 23rd, 2003. A variety of topics were covered, including an overview of the CASA Effectiveness and Court Improvement Studies.

We also discussed the areas for program improvement recommended by the volunteers who completed their annual evaluations with their coordinators. Finally, websites to keep up to date on the current legislative issues affecting the child welfare community were provided. Those are www.azchildren.org and www.azleg.state.az.us. Thanks again to all who attended and we look forward to seeing you next year!



Upcoming Events

February 3, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Training: Dependency Overview
Southeast Juvenile Court Complex
Saguaro Room

February 7-8, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

New CASA Orientation Training
Arizona Supreme Court Building

February 13, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Post Orientation Training
Durango Juvenile Court Complex
Juvenile Probation Building Room 223

February 17

President's Day
CASA Office will be closed.

February 20, 9:45 a.m.-3 p.m.

Legislative Day
Arizona Supreme Court Building
Training Room 119

February 22, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Juvenile Probation Office Tour
(Limited number of participants-bring ID)
Durango Juvenile Court Complex

Meet in parking lot at east-end of JPO
Building

February 26, 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

How to Read a Psychological Evaluation
Durango Juvenile Court Complex
Juvenile Probation Building
Room 223

March 6, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Case Selection
Durango Juvenile Court Complex
Juvenile Probation Building
Room 223

March 10, 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

CPS Overview: Effective
Case Management
Durango Juvenile Court Complex
Juvenile Probation Building
Room 223

March 13, 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Brown Bag Lunch with Judge Scott
Southeast Juvenile Court Complex
Yucca Room



Peer Group Meetings

Scottsdale — 1:30 pm.

Last Wednesday Of each month
Home of Mary Lou Davis

East Valley — 6:30 p.m.

Third Wednesday of each
month.
Home Joe & Vicky Orlando

Central Phoenix* — 6:30 p.m.

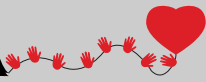
Third Wednesday of the month
at 6:30 pm.
Home of Doreen Sweiss
*Marcia Rysdon and Doreen
Sweiss alternate hosting
monthly meetings

West Valley — 6:30 p.m.

Fourth Thursday of each month
Home of Donna Spence

**Please call the CASA Office for
addresses and phone numbers.**

CASA



Contacts and Information

Locations

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